

# The Akron Quines visit the Isle of Man, 1909

In July and August of 1909 Harry S. Quine and his wife Sarah Jahant Quine visited the Isle of Man. With them on their journey were Bess Quine, Harry's sister, and Robert S. Quine, father of Harry and Bess.

Robert S. Quine was born in Kirk Bride, near Andreas, Isle of Man, in 1849. He left home at the age of 12 and became a sailor, visiting ports all over the world. ([photo of Robert S. Quine as a young sailor](#)) He spent some time serving in a U. S. lighthouse and sailing on the Great Lakes. He emigrated to the United States and settled in Akron, Ohio in 1872. He married Katerina Motz in 1874, and had three children: Harry, Bess, and [Cloyd](#). Robert was 60 years old at the time of this journey and probably had not seen the Isle of Man since his youth. (see [Robert Quine obituary](#))

Robert was the son of Robert Quine and Eleanor Stanford. He had seven brothers and sisters, all born on the Isle of Man:

Eliza Quine 1851 –1929 (Eliza O'Neil)

Joseph Robert Quine 1854-1899

John James Quine 1856-1939

Elizabeth Quine 1858-1927 (Betsy Shimmin)

William Stanford Quine 1861-1927

Thomas Henry Quine 1864-1947

Harriet Ann Quine 1866-1934 (Harriet Crellin)

The family was employed in tenant farming at the time Robert S. Quine left home.

The letters below from Harry and Sarah in 1909 tell the story of their visit. Robert Quine had left home before the last 3 of his sibling were born, so the trip was a special family reunion. The letters tell of all the surviving brothers and sisters of Robert. The two sisters, Betsy Shimmin and Harriet Crellin, hosted the Quines and fed them copious amounts of tea and Manx seafood. Harry mentions in a letter that except for John's beard, the brothers John and Robert looked as much alike as twins. At the August family reunion in Peel there were three sisters and two brothers, William and John. The sister Eliza came over from Manchester for the reunion. They are all pictured in the photo below. The letters also speak of another brother that they met in Liverpool. This must have been Thomas Quine.

Harry was a writer for the newspaper *The Akron Times*. Harry and Sarah wrote letters describing their journeys, both to relatives in Akron and to the *Times*. These letters were kept by Sarah and then her son, John R. Quine. The letters are transcribed below.

## Letters from the Isle of Man

[Letters, July 5, 6, 1909.](#) This letter tells of the voyage to Liverpool aboard the Canadian Pacific Railway Atlantic Service S. S. Manitoba. The

old sailor, Robert Quine, was the first to spy land at 4 AM.

[Letter July 10, 1909](#) This letter describes the ferry ride to the Isle of Man, the train ride to Peel, and the momentous meeting with Harriet Quine Crellin. Legend has it that her daughter Florence was sent to the street to “look for someone you don’t know.” She found a group led by a short man in cap and long coat, and that was Robert Quine and the Quines. The Quines spent their time in Peel with side trips to nearby Glen Maye, and to Castletown and the north of the island where Robert Quine was born.

[Letter July 18, 1909](#) This letter was sent to me by Suzanne Quine Maltin in Austin TX. It was passed to her from a great aunt in Ohio who was a Quine. It appears that Harry Quine was asked to trace her family history. Although he did not succeed, he gives a picturesque description of a trip to Ballaugh Church. He indicates that his own grandfather was buried in Malew.

[Letters August 2, 4, 1909](#) These letters tell of the return of Harry and Sarah to Peel after visits to Ireland and Germany, and the family reunion of Robert and his siblings. They tell of the trip to Liverpool to board the ship for the journey home, and of the host of well wishers who came to see them off. One cousin, Joe Crellin, returned to Akron with them.

[Letter to Akron Times](#) Probably Harry Quine helped finance the trip by writing accounts of his travel for the newspaper he worked for, *The Akron Times*. This is a letter he wrote about the Isle of Man.

## Photos from Isle of Man

These photos were taken by Harry S. Quine in 1909. They were copied from the scrapbook of my father, John R. Quine. The annotations are his.

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A view of Peel in 1909. The train station where the Quines arrived can be seen on the right. The train no longer runs from Douglas to Peel. [Map of Peel \(online, interactive\)](#)

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A photo of a carriage ride take by Sarah Quine, Bess Quine, Harriet Quine Crellin, Betsy (Elizabeth) Quine Shimmin, Robert S. Quine, and a driver.

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One of Harry's goals on this trip to the Isle of Man, Ireland, and Germany was to take photos of the houses in which his grandparents were born. This cottage near Andreas is supposed to be where Robert Quine was born. The baptismal record indicates that Robert's father lived on Braust road, and this cottage is very close to the farm called Braust.

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A closeup view of the Manx cottage where Robert Quine was born. [Map \(online, interactive\) to location of this cottage.](#) [Map \(offline\).](#) The building still stands with additions. It is called Oatland Bungalow. [Current photo of Oatland Bungalow](#) with Jack Quine and Jennifer Quine standing in front of it. The location was found thanks to a tip from Nigel Crowe.

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This building still stands near Andreas near where Robert Quine was born. [Map to location of this building \(online, interactive\)](#). [Map \(offline\)](#)

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This is a picture of the family reunion in Peel mentioned in the August letter. Many of the people were identified by my father from discussion with relatives. All of Robert Quine's siblings except Joseph (deceased) and Thomas are in this photo.

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Bess Quine, Robert Quine, Joe Crellin, Harry S. Quine Jr., Sarah Quine, Harry S. Quine after their return from the Isle of Man in 1909.

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*This material is from the keepsakes of Sarah Quine recovered by her son John R. Quine. It was compiled by Jack Quine (John R. Quine, Jr.), a grandson of Harry S. Quine.*

See also the [writing and photos of Harry S. Quine from his visit to Ireland](#).

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